

AMENDMENT AND PRESENTATION OF CLAIMS

Please replace all prior claims in the present application with the following claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing forecasting and modeling, implemented by one or more processors programmed by a set of instructions to perform the steps of comprising:

collecting data in a multi-user peer-to-peer collaborative environment over a data network by:
issuing functor requests through a workflow router to users for data and programs; and
receiving functor objects from users responsive to the functor requests; and
generating a financial model with re-usable financial components based upon the collected data and programs, wherein the financial model supports user approval of selected ones of the financial components.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the collected data resides within a spreadsheet, the method comprising:

mapping content from a plurality of cells of the a spreadsheet to a plurality of objects, wherein the content includes the data and programs ~~formulas~~ for input into the financial model.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the collected data resides within a spreadsheet, the method comprising:

mapping content including the data from a plurality of cells of the a spreadsheet to one or more classes, wherein the class duplicates functionality of the spreadsheet if the class is used to create an object.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the one or more processors are further programmed to perform the steps of the method comprising:

performing a simulation based on the generated financial model;

outputting ~~a simulation result from~~ the financial model;

providing a user with a plurality of input parameters including operators;

dynamically receiving one of the input parameters from the user in support of what-if analysis of the financial model; and

generating ~~another~~ simulation result in response to the received input parameter for retrieval by the user over the data network.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4, the method comprising:

generating a report of the simulation result via a list query language module that specifies and executes queries in list algebra, wherein the user places an arbitrary list query in at least one cell of a report grid for display.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 6, further ~~the method~~ comprising:

~~presenting a graphical user interface (GUI) to a host for display of the report to the user,~~
~~wherein the GUI supports options to format the report~~ selecting a plurality of cells in the
report grid; and
specifying a list query for pre-filtering the objects for selected cells containing list queries so
that the pre-filtered objects are not included in the list queries.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein a first user issues a request object for requesting information relating to the financial model, and the request object includes ~~a one of an activator and~~ a program to collect the information and to validate a response from ~~a the~~ second user, ~~the~~ a response object received from the second user responsive to the request object conforming to a class interface specified by the first user, the method further comprising:

storing the request object; and

selectively forwarding the request object to the ~~a~~ second user.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium bearing instructions for providing forecasting and modeling, the instructions being arranged, upon execution, to cause one or more processors to perform the steps of: ~~of a method according to claim 1~~

collecting data in a multi-user peer-to-peer collaborative environment over a data network by:

issuing functor requests through a workflow router to users for data and programs; and

receiving functor objects from users responsive to the functor requests; and

generating a financial model with re-usable financial components based upon the collected data and programs, wherein the financial model supports user approval of selected ones of the financial components.

10. (Currently Amended) A system for providing forecasting and modeling, the system comprising:

~~means~~ one or more processors programmed for collecting data in a multi-user peer-to-peer collaborative environment over a data network by issuing functor requests through a workflow router to at least one of a plurality of users for data and programs; and receiving functor objects from users responsive to the functor requests; and

a modeling module configured to generate a financial model with re-usable financial components based upon the collected data and programs, wherein the financial model supports user approval of selected ones of the financial components.

11. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 10, wherein the collected data resides within a spreadsheet, the system comprising:

a spreadsheet-to-object mapper configured to map content from a plurality of cells of the a spreadsheet to a plurality of objects, wherein the content includes the data and programs ~~formulas~~ for input into the financial model.

12. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 10, wherein the collected data resides within a spreadsheet, the system comprising:

a spreadsheet-to-class mapper configured to map content including the data from a plurality of cells of the a spreadsheet to one or more classes, wherein the class duplicates functionality of the spreadsheet if the class is used to create an object.

13. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 10, the system comprising:

the one or more processors for executing the generated financial model, the financial model providing operators; and

a what-if analysis module within the one or more processors configured to dynamically process an input parameter from a user, the input parameter corresponding to ~~a simulation result from the financial model, the input parameter including an operator~~ provided by the financial model.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 13, the system comprising:

a list query language module within the one or more processors configured to generate a report of the simulation result, wherein the list query language module specifies and executes queries in list algebra.

16. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 15, ~~the system comprising:~~

~~a graphical user interface (GUI) module configured to display the report via a host to the user, wherein the GUI module supports options to format the report~~ wherein the one or more processors are further configured to select a plurality of cells in a report grid and to specify a list query for pre-filtering the objects for selected cells containing list queries so that the pre-filtered objects are not included in the list queries.

17. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 10, wherein a first user issues a request object for requesting information relating to the financial model, and the request object includes ~~a one of an activator and~~ a program to collect the information and to validate a response

from ~~a~~ the second user, ~~the~~ a response object received from the second user responsive to the request object conforming to a class interface specified by the first user, the system further comprising:

an object storage system configured to store the request object; and

the ~~a~~ workflow router configured to selectively forward the request object to the ~~a~~ second user.

18. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 10, the system comprising:

a strategy game module within the one or more processors configured to solicit input from the ~~a~~ plurality of users to simulate a plurality of scenarios relating to the financial model, the scenarios corresponding to different competitive goals assigned to the users, and the simulation comprising a plurality of classes or objects.

19. (Withdrawn) A method for providing collaborative forecasting and modeling, the method comprising:

storing a request object submitted by a first user and destined for a second user, wherein the request object requests information relating to a financial model, and the request object includes one of an activator and program to collect the information and to validate a response from the second user, the response object conforming to a class interface specified by the first user; and

routing the request object to a second user,

wherein the second user selectively delegates responsibility for responding to the request object to a third user.

20. (New) A method according to claim 6, further comprising:
selecting a plurality of cells in the report grid; and
specifying a list query for collecting objects into a set, wherein a graphical embellishment is applied to cells including an object contained in the set.
21. (New) A method according to claim 7, wherein the selected plurality of cells is contiguous.
22. (New) A method according to claim 7, wherein the selected plurality of cells is discontinuous.
23. (New) A system according to claim 18, further comprising, responsive to the inputs from the plurality of users, one of adding arbitrary new classes or objects to the simulation, or making arbitrary changes to a class or object currently in the simulation.
24. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein the functor objects received from users responsive to the functor requests specify the necessity of additional inputs.